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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 23 October 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

More than 11,000 Palestinian civilians, including more than 400 children and more than 100 women, are being held in the prisons and detention centres of Israel, the occupying Power. The majority of Palestinians being illegally imprisoned or arbitrarily detained by Israel are subject to extremely harsh living conditions and constant physical and mental ill-treatment, including coercive interrogations and humiliation, and many of them are subject to torture. The inhumane treatment of Palestinian prisoners at the hands of the occupying Power has been the cause of widespread suffering and trauma among the prisoners and has led to the death of at least 190 Palestinian prisoners over the many years of this prolonged and bitter foreign occupation of the Palestinian land and people.

In this regard, I regret to inform you of the death today of a Palestinian prisoner, Mohammed Al-Ashqar, 33 years of age, who died as a result of the critical wounds he sustained yesterday, 22 October, at the southern Israeli detention camp of Al-Naqab (Ketziot) in the Negev, when Israeli guards fired upon prisoners with live ammunition and tear gas, injuring at least 250 other prisoners. Clashes had broken out at the detention camp, where more than 2,300 people are being imprisoned in tents, after Israeli guards began conducting provocative cell searches in the night, causing an escalation of tensions. Mr. Al-Ashqar, who was hit with several bullets, had been sentenced to about three years and had only three months remaining in his sentence. He was the father of one child. Palestinian prisoners are waging a hunger strike today in protest of the killing and Israel's harsh treatment of prisoners. Moreover, following the death of Mr. Al-Ashqar, the Palestinian Council of Ministers decided today to request the appropriate United Nations body to conduct an investigation into this serious matter.

It is imperative to stress that, as the occupying Power, Israel remains bound by numerous obligations under international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, with regard to all of its actions in the Occupied Palestinian

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Territory, including East Jerusalem, including vis-à-vis the civilians it imprisons or detains. Article 76 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War clearly defines the rights of protected persons faced with detention by an occupying Power. Among these rights is the right to remain in the occupied territory during all stages of the detention, including during the serving of prison sentences if convicted, which is clearly being violated by the occupying Power as a result of its transfer of prisoners and detainees to areas inside Israel. Israel is also committing numerous other violations and grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other relevant provisions of international law with its unjust imprisonment and brutal treatment of the thousands of Palestinian civilians in its jails and detention centres, including as a result of the denial of family visits, the denial of adequate medical care, the denial of special protection for women and children detainees and the denial of due process and fair trials.

The international community should act to urgently address this very serious issue and to uphold international law in this regard. In addition, it must be reiterated that the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention have an obligation under article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions to respect and ensure respect of the Convention in all circumstances, and this includes the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to which the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable, and which Israel, the occupying Power, must abide by.

Palestine calls for the immediate release of all Palestinian civilians being unlawfully imprisoned or detained by Israel, the occupying Power, including the children, women and more than 40 Palestinian officials being unjustly held. The international community should compel Israel to release the thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees it is holding and, until they are released, the international community should demand that the occupying Power respect its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, vis-à-vis its treatment of these protected persons.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 298 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 October 2007 (A/ES-10/402-S/2007/599), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 26 October 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my deep regret to inform you that, after declaring the Gaza Strip as an "enemy entity" in September 2007, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued closing all borders crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip and tightening its siege and isolation of Gaza, further obstructing the access and movement of people and goods, including humanitarian, medical and food supplies. These unlawful punitive measures by the occupying Power have caused a disastrous deterioration of the already-grave humanitarian situation being faced by the Palestinian civilian population.

In this regard, it was announced by Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Matan Vilanai on Israel Army Radio on Wednesday, 24 October 2007, that the occupying Power plans to reduce "dramatically" — by about two thirds — the power that is supplied to the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian Council of Ministers has categorically rejected this dangerous and provocative Israeli decision to impose further restrictions on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and to cut the essential supplies of electricity, fuel and other goods to the civilian population. Such harsh and illegal Israeli measures, which constitute collective punishment of the entire civilian population, are in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, namely the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and also in flagrant violation of human rights law. Moreover, such illegal measures would lead to a worsening of the critical humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian civilian population, including children, women, elderly and the disabled, already face innumerable hardships and untold suffering. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. John Holmes, has told journalists in Geneva today that restrictions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were making it harder and harder for normal economic activity to be maintained, especially in

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Gaza, warning that Israel's threat to cut electricity and fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip will only worsen the situation.

Indeed, food insecurity is rising and lack of access to proper medical care and adequate medical supplies has had grave effects on the health and well-being of the population. In addition, according to United Nations agencies, some 70,000 people have lost their jobs and nearly 90 per cent of the population in Gaza now lives below the official poverty line. The absence of raw materials has forced most businesses to close, or work at minimum capacity.

In light of this critical situation, the international community should exert all efforts and the necessary pressure to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to revoke this dangerous decision and to lift immediately the unlawful siege being imposed on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip in respect of their human rights and in order to alleviate their suffering.

At the same time, I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, also continues its lethal military aggression against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Five Palestinian civilians were killed today by Israeli gunfire in Absan in the Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis and in Jabalya, north Gaza Strip, and by missiles fired by Israeli warplanes on a crowd in the Al-Shojaiya neighbourhood, east of Gaza City.

On Wednesday, 24 October 2007, Israeli warplanes bombarded a building in the Qlebio area in the northern Gaza Strip, killing two Palestinian civilians. On Tuesday, 23 October 2007, Israeli occupying forces killed two Palestinian civilians in the West Bank city of Jenin. On Monday, 22 October 2007, Zeina Mar'ei, an 8 year-old girl, died of head wounds she sustained when Israeli occupying forces opened fire, randomly shooting at Palestinian civilians, in the West Bank city of Tulkarem. On Tuesday, 16 October 2007, 70 year-old Abed Shaker al-Wazeer was killed when Israeli occupying forces shot him dead near his house in the West Bank city of Nablus.

In occupied East Jerusalem, Israel, the occupying Power, is continuing its illegal practice of demolishing Palestinian homes in direct violation of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention, to which Israel is a signatory. In this connection, the Abu Aisha 5-story apartment building in the neighbourhood of Beit Hanina is at risk of being demolished by Israeli authorities, who have expelled its 70 Palestinian residents, including women and children.

All such Israeli practices are unlawful; they constitute the gravest violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law. Moreover, such illegal measures are totally contradictory to the confidence-building measures needed to sustain and move the peace process forward and undermine the current efforts being exerted for the resumption of dialogue and negotiations between the two sides aimed at achieving a final, just and peaceful settlement, on the basis of the two-State solution and the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in its entirety. To prevent the further deterioration of the situation and to contribute to the efforts to resolve this prolonged and tragic conflict, the international community must uphold its responsibilities and take action to bring a halt to these Israeli violations being committed against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 299 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 23 October 2007 (A/ES-10/403-S/2007/628), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my deep regret to inform you that at least 30 more Palestinian civilians, including children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,731. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 26 October 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 27 September, to Friday, 26 October 2007)

Thursday, 27 September 2007

1. Hossam Howaihi

Monday, 1 October 2007

2. Ahmad Ayesh al-Amouri
3. Bilal Abu Shakian

Wednesday, 3 October 2007

4. Mohammad Bassam Hassan (19)
5. Sa'eed Abdel Majeed al-Ammour

Friday, 5 October 2007

6. Tareq Abu Jari

Sunday, 7 October 2007

7. Ali Abu Rmaila

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

8. Ammar al-Ainboosi

Saturday, 13 October 2007

9. Hassam Khedr Na'eem

Tuesday, 16 October 2007

10. Abed Shaker al-Wazeer (70)
11. Bassel Abu Srayes

Wednesday, 17 October 2007

12. Hazem Asfour

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,733.

Saturday, 20 October 2007

13. Ra'ed Shamallakh
14. Nizar Abu Arab

Monday, 22 October 2007

15. Zeina Mar'ei (8)

Tuesday, 23 October 2007

16. Khaled Abu Sari
17. Mubarak al-Hasanat
18. Mohammad Jawabra
19. Khaled Hussain Abu Saqr

Wednesday, 24 October 2007

20. Mohammad Kalloub
21. Abdo Abu Askar (18)

Thursday, 25 October 2007

22. Mohammad Abed
23. Mohmoud al-Kurdi
24. Ahmad Tabash
25. Ayman Fseifes

Friday, 26 October 2007

26. Mohammad Shalbiyya
27. Mahmoud Hassouna
28. Abdel Raheem Hamdouna
29. Yasser Asfour
30. Youssef Walayda